

DIRECTORY OF DISABILITY RESOURCES

In Support of AmeriCorps State Projects Inclusion Objective

AmeriCorps projects have an affirmative obligation to be inclusive. However, reaching out and recruiting people with disabilities to be AmeriCorps members can be challenging. Project directors and coordinators have asked, “Who do we contact? Are there any particular advantages to a person with a disability becoming an AmeriCorps member? Will AmeriCorps benefits conflict with other benefits a person with disabilities may be entitled to? The resources included in this directory can help answer some of these questions. Some of these sites also provide links to many other resources, e.g., the DDD site (immediately below) includes a glossary of terms, links to employment related programs like ticket-to-work, other disability related organizations, etc. And, these sites can provide direct access to people with disabilities who may want to choose the opportunity to be an AmeriCorps member.

Websites are listed in order of their potential usefulness to AmeriCorps State projects, particularly so for the first ten or eleven sites. All the sites should be useful and valuable; some are likely to be more useful than others.

Department of Economic Security, Division of Developmental Disabilities: DDD supports the choices of individuals with disabilities and their families by promoting and providing, flexible, quality, consumer-driven services and supports. A system of services and supports which are responsive, timely and flexible to internal and external customers. Supports are strength based, promote self-reliance, enhance confidence and build on community assets.
<http://www.de.state.az.us/ddd/>

Arizona Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities: The Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities is a 25-member council comprised of individuals with developmental disabilities, family members of individuals with disabilities and representatives of state agencies that provide services to individuals with developmental disabilities. The Council's current plan includes objectives in the areas of education, employment, and formal and informal community supports and quality assurance.
<http://www.azgcdd.org/>

People First of Arizona: A statewide self-advocacy organization comprised primarily of people with developmental Disabilities, family members and advocates. Influential in policy and legislative affairs and disability awareness building.
(602) 443-0729 (Arizona Bridge to Independent Living)

Self Advocacy Coalition of Arizona: The Council has initiated the development of a Statewide Self-Advocacy Coalition comprised and led by individuals with disabilities and including family members of individuals with disabilities to address issues relevant to their future and success.
<http://www.selfadvocacyofaz.org>

Institute for Human Development: Arizona's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research and Service. The Institute for Human Development is located at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff. The Institute implements its mission through the conduct of interdisciplinary training, promotion of exemplary community service programs, provision of technical assistance at all levels of the service delivery system, and the conduct of research and evaluation that is disseminated to targeted groups in the field.
<http://www.nau.edu/ihd/>

Rehabilitation Services Administration: RSA's mission is to work with individuals with disabilities to achieve increased independence and/or gainful employment through the provision of comprehensive rehabilitative and employment support services. RSA programs provide a variety of specialized services for individuals with physical or mental disabilities that create barriers to employment or independent living. RSA offers three major service programs and several specialized programs/services.

- Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)
- Independent Living Rehabilitation (ILRS)
- Employment Support Services (ESS)

Specialized Programs and Services

- Services for Individuals who are Blind/Visually Impaired
- Services for Individuals who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or Deafblind
- Services for Individuals with Serious Mental Illness (SMI)
- Services for Individuals with Traumatic Brain Injuries
- Services for Youth at Risk
- Rehabilitation Technology
- Services for Students Transitioning from School to Work
- Arizona Industries for the Blind (AIB)
- Business Enterprise Program (BEP)

<http://www.de.state.az.us/rsa/>

Arizona Department of Education, Exceptional Student Services: The Division of ESS seeks to promote the development and implementation of quality education for students with disabilities. The ADE implements IDEA in the State of Arizona and works closely with the Rehabilitation Services Administration in making a Transition-to-Work for students with disabilities.

<http://www.ade.state.az.us/ess/SpecialProjects/transition/>

Governor's Statewide Independent Living Council: The primary purpose of the Council is to encourage and advocate independent living for Arizonan's with disabilities throughout the state. The SILC office is centrally located in Phoenix, Arizona. At this location resides an executive director and support staff to accommodate the operational aspect of the organization.

<http://azsilc.org/>

Centers for Independent Living: CIL's are guided by an Independent Living and Self-Determination Philosophy that promotes people first language, individual choice and responsibility, self-advocacy and programs available to persons with all types of disabilities. CIL's are grass-roots organizations. There are 450 Centers for Independent Living across the country. The majority of CIL board, staff and volunteers are individuals who have disabilities. CIL's offer peer support through staff and Peer Mentor volunteers to help you adapt to living with your disability and pursue the life you want to live. There are five centers for independent living in Arizona plus a cyber center:

- ABIL-Arizona Bridge to Independent Living, <http://www.abil.org/>
- DIRECT-Disability Resource Center of Tucson, <http://www.directilc.org/>
- NHILC-New Horizons Independent Living Center, <http://newhorizonsilc.org/>
- SMILE-Services Maximizing IL & Empowerment, <http://www.snap211.com/org/1482438.html>
- ASSIST! to Independence, <http://www.assisttoindependence.org/>

- CyberCIL, <http://www.cybercil.com>

Arizona Technology Access Program (AZTAP): AZTAP (a) increases access to assistive technology (AT) devices and services for individuals with disabilities and their families, and (b) facilitates the development of a consumer-responsive AT service delivery system. Program staff works with consumers, service providers, state agencies, private industry, legislators, and other interested individuals to facilitate the development of a statewide system to provide AT services. <http://www.nau.edu/ihd/aztap/>

Technology Access Center of Tucson (TACT): TACT provides individuals with disabilities opportunities to explore technology that may enhance their independence, communication, productivity, recreation and social interdependence according to their individual needs and interests. TACT provides easy access to conventional technologies, assistive technologies, related services and information resources so that individuals with diverse abilities have opportunities to become informed consumer and users of technology. <http://www.ed.arizona.edu/tact/Page%202.htm#History>

United Cerebral Palsy of Central Arizona: United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) is committed to change and progress for persons with disabilities. The national organization and its nationwide network of affiliates strive to ensure the inclusion of persons with disabilities in every facet of society—from the Web to the workplace, from the classroom to the community. UCP of Central Arizona help children and adults with such disabilities as cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, spina bifida, attention deficit disorder. UCP works directly with employers to assist individuals with job placement; UCP provides on-going job coaching services to assist individuals in learning their job duties in order to meet employer expectations; Training and education for consumers is available for resume writing, interviewing techniques, self-imaging and interpersonal skills. <http://www.ucpofaz.org>

United Cerebral Palsy of Southern Arizona: United Cerebral Palsy of Southern Arizona, is committed to advancing the integration and inclusion of people with disabilities in our local community by:

- Empowering people with cerebral palsy and other disabilities to have control and choice in all aspects of their lives.
- Conducting a program of public awareness concerning cerebral palsy, United Cerebral Palsy of Southern Arizona and other issues of concern to people with cerebral palsy and other disabilities.
- Providing the highest quality services in the most cost-effective manner through collaboration with other organizations and with people with disabilities and their families.

<http://www.ucpsa.org>

Arizona Department of Health Services/Division of Behavioral Health Services: The Arizona Department of Health Services/Division of Behavioral Health Services (ADHS/DBHS) serves as the single state authority to provide coordination, planning, administration, regulation and monitoring of all facets of the state public behavioral health system. Through a network of Regional Behavioral Health Authorities, ADHS/DBHS delivers a full range of behavioral health care services, including prevention programs for adults and children, a full continuum of services for adults with substance abuse and general mental health disorders, adults with serious mental illness, and children with serious emotional disturbance. <http://www.azdhs.gov/bhs/aboutbhs.htm>

NAMI Arizona: is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation representing Arizona families affected by serious mental illnesses. NAMI Arizona is affiliated with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). NAMI Arizona operates the Mental Illness Information and Family Center under a contract with the Arizona Department of Health Services.

<http://www.namiaz.org/index.html>

The Arc of Arizona, Inc.: The Arc is a national organization of and for people with cognitive, intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. The Arc of Arizona offers a full continuum of services that includes residential programs, day programs, supported work programs and job training, family supports, Arc sponsored conferences and workshops, resource information and advocacy, for children and adults with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities.

<http://www.arcarizona.org/>

Job Accommodation Network: A free service of the Office of Disability Employment Policy U.S. Department of Labor. JAN, is designed to increase the employability of people with disabilities by: 1) providing individualized worksite accommodations solutions, 2) providing technical assistance regarding the ADA and other disability related legislation, and 3) educating callers about self-employment options. 800-526-7234 (V), 877-781-9403 (TTY).

<http://www.jan.wvu.edu/>

Arizona Center for Disability Law: The Arizona Center for Disability Law is a federally designated Protection and Advocacy System for the State of Arizona. Protection and Advocacy Systems (P&As) throughout the United States assure that the human and civil rights of persons with disabilities are protected. Through various streams of funding, the Center conducts:

- Client Assistance Program (CAP). CAP provides information and assistance to individuals seeking or receiving services under the Rehabilitation Act.
- Protection and Advocacy of Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI).
- The Protection and Advocacy of Individuals Rights (PAIR) program. The PAIR program allows Protection and Advocacy Systems to focus considerable attention on accessibility, housing and employment issues.
- Assistive Technology Project designated to perform protection and advocacy work for people to obtain assistive technology.
- Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS), a new program devoted to assisting social security beneficiaries in their efforts to obtain and maintain employment.

The Center provides up-to-date legal information for disabled workers under its Employment Hotline.

<http://www.acdl.com/default.htm>

Best Buddies Arizona: Best Buddies ® is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to enhancing the lives of people with intellectual disabilities by providing opportunities for one-to-one friendships and integrated employment. When people with disabilities are unable to attain or maintain a job, it is most often due to an absence of social skills rather than an inadequacy to perform the work required. Best Buddies introduces socialization opportunities and job coaching, providing the necessary tools for people with intellectual disabilities to become more independent and, consequently, more included in the community.

www.bestbuddiesarizona.org

Arizona Association of Providers for People with Disabilities: The AAPPD site provides comprehensive directories of providers of services for people with disabilities by type of service, area of service and a complete provider list. The site also provides another access point to the DES/DDD manual "Navigating the System."

<http://www.aappd.com/>

Project ACTION Accessible Traveler's Database - Arizona Cities: Easter Seals Project ACTION promotes cooperation between the transportation industry and the disability community to increase mobility for people with disabilities under the ADA and beyond. ACTION offers various resources, as well as training and technical assistance, in an effort to make the ADA work for everyone, everyday. After more than 12 years, ACTION continues to make Accessible-Community-Transportation-In-Our-Nation (ACTION).

http://projectaction.easterseals.com/cgi-bin/traveler_search.cgi

Advocates for the Disabled: Serves Arizona residents from birth through retirement age who have an active claim for disability benefits.

- Expedite requests for benefits.
- Educate clients on the disabilities benefits system and use of benefits.
- Provide clients money guidance services through the Representative Payee Program.
- Serve as a community resource for information on the disability system.
- Help people move from government benefits to financial independence.
- Endorse public changes that help persons become self-reliant.

<http://www.cirs.org/homepage/advocates/>

Arizona Office for Americans with Disabilities: endeavors to assure equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency for all individuals with disabilities

- Answer ADA-related questions.
- Help to develop plans for maximum accessibility.
- Train and facilitate the understanding of employers and employees on federal and state disability laws.
- Evaluate agency compliance programs.
- Provide ADA-related resources and materials.
- Assist people with disabilities in understanding their rights, opportunities and responsibilities.

www.azada.gov

Arizona Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired: ACBVI is committed to "enhancing the quality of life for people who are blind or otherwise visually impaired." Services are available to adults who are legally blind or visually impaired as well as those who have a degenerative eye condition, which may eventually become a visual impairment. These services are offered separately or concurrently according to the individual needs of the qualifying client.

<http://www.acbvi.org/>

Arizona Council of the Blind: Statewide affiliate of the American Council of the Blind, Inc. organization made up of blind, visually impaired, and sighted Arizonans, with a broad diversity of occupations and professions. Primary focus is on blindness-related issues - especially on dealing effectively with the challenges of daily living

<http://aztec.asu.edu/azcb/>

Arizona Commission for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing: ACDHH staff serves as a statewide information, referral and resource center on issues which concern the Deaf and Hard of Hearing communities. Working closely with other state, local and national agencies, ACDHH is a clearinghouse of information.

<http://www.acdhh.org/>

Sharing Down Syndrome Arizona: The SDSA vision is to educate and empower parents to be the best advocate for their child. SDSA wants to not only make a positive difference, but to illuminate a bright future. SDSA wants to help others in our communities see kids with Down as a child first, a brother or sister next and "delayed", "challenged" or "differently-abled" somewhere down the list.

<http://sharingds.org/>

Arizona State University - Disability Resources for Students : The Disability Resource Center (DRC) is the central location for establishing eligibility and obtaining services & accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. The Center serves as an information hub for ASU and the community. Students are encouraged to visit the DRC and make it an integral part of their educational pursuits.

<http://www.asu.edu/studentaffairs/ed/drc/>

University of Arizona's Disability Resource Center: The DRC facilitates full access for disabled students, faculty, staff, and visitors through the provision of reasonable accommodations, adaptive athletic and fitness programs, assistive technology, innovative programming, education, and consultation.

<http://www.arizona.edu/home/disability-access.php>

Arizona Postsecondary Access Coalition (AzPAC): a statewide group of college disability specialists representing the Disability Resource Centers at Arizona colleges and universities. The current chairperson is Jack Clevenger, the coordinator of disability resources at Yavapai College in Prescott, email.

jack_clevenger@yc.edu.

FAS Arizona: The focus of the Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Center is PREVENTION: Primary prevention raises awareness in the general population to reduce the incidence of FASD. Secondary prevention focuses on women at high risk - those who have already had a child with FASD. Tertiary prevention focuses on reducing the incidence of secondary conditions associated with FASD.

FAS-CRC is supported by the Pima Council on Developmental Disabilities and the Arizona Department of Developmental Disabilities.

<http://fasarizona.com/>

Ticket to Work: The Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Program is an employment program for people with disabilities who are interested in going to work. The Ticket program is part of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999 – legislation designed to remove many of the barriers that previously influenced people's decisions about going to work because of the concerns over losing health care coverage. The goal of the Ticket program is to increase opportunities and choices for Social Security disability beneficiaries to obtain employment, vocational rehabilitation, and other support services from public and private providers, employers and other organizations.

[Http://www.yourtickettowork.com/](http://www.yourtickettowork.com/)

VALUES, LANGUAGE AND ETIQUETTE re: PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES: This page, found on the Arizona Bridge to Independent Living website, is an excellent overview of appropriate attitudes and behavior when interacting with people with disabilities.
<http://www.abil.org/AttitudesandEtiquette.htm>

LD ONLINE, The leading Web site on learning disabilities for parents, teachers, and other professionals
<http://www.ldonline.org/>

Mental Health Association of Arizona: The Mental Health Association of Arizona promotes good mental health and works on behalf of all people living with mental illness by advocating, educating and shaping public policy. Programs provide information, referral, socialization and friendship opportunities for persons with a serious mental illness as well as homeless children. Implemented by trained volunteers, these programs prevent depression, suicide and hospitalization while encouraging independence.
<http://www.mhaarizona.org/program/index.html>

National Multiple Sclerosis Society - Desert Southwest Chapter: The National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Arizona Chapter is here to serve you through education, information and referral, counseling, assistance with employment concerns, social activities and more.
<http://www.nationalmssociety.org/AZA/home/>

Muscular Dystrophy Association: The Muscular Dystrophy Association is a voluntary health agency — a dedicated partnership between scientists and concerned citizens aimed at conquering neuromuscular diseases that affect more than a million Americans. MDA combats neuromuscular diseases through programs of worldwide research, comprehensive medical and community services, and far-reaching professional and public health education.
<http://www.mdausa.org/>

Arizona Spina Bifida Association: A website for parents and advocates concerned with spina bifida and spina bifida spectrum disorders.
<http://www.azspinabifida.org/>

Arizona Spinal Cord Injury Association: The mission of the Arizona United Spinal Cord Injury Association is to enhance the lives of individuals and their family members, statewide, as they live with spinal cord injuries - to ensure the maximum possible physical, intellectual, spiritual, emotional and social recovery. The Association focuses on peer support, family support, education of consumers, families, caregivers and professionals and providing vocational, social and recreational resource linkages.
<http://www.azspinal.org/>